



# TRANSNATIONAL LITERATURE

## Epistrophe: The Return

charred tomb parked outside police station  
blackened mudguard shattered tinted windscreen  
hang over cliff's edge opposite soccer stadium wall  
farewell seascape of his youth

parents died without seeing their émigré son again  
he served rich diners in New York saw the twin towers fall  
dreamed of retirement reunited with siblings  
and friends in village of his birth

at last aged pension savings farewells return  
a renewed life marred with bitterness  
social misunderstandings petty jealousies  
inheritance squabbles preceded the final insult

onslaught of malignancy contradictory medical opinions  
bereft of therapeutic options cared for by strangers  
Will witnessed by friend from childhood  
*Look what I've become! Is this how man ends!* he'd said

dared not reveal his plan inquisitive townsfolk  
stop and stare at skeleton of his car  
death notices pinned on Church hoardings  
rumours abound *He must have had problems.* They decide

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accident foul play suicide?  
his life a bag of ash  
self-immolation rebuff to Orthodoxy  
retribution for feigned kinship and sorrow

***Loula S. Rodopoulos***

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